

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (original) A method of preventing or reducing myocardial dysfunction comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that can inhibit lysozyme to a cell or animal in need thereof.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the agent is a carbohydrate having at least two N-acetylglucosamine (NAG) units.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the agent is N,N' diacetylglucosamine (chitobiose) or N,N', N" triacetylglucosamine (TAC).

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide to lysozyme or antibody to lysozyme.

5. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the agent can inhibit the binding of lysozyme to a glycoprotein on the cell to be treated.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1 where the animal has a condition selected from the group consisting of sepsis and systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS).

7. (original) A method of preventing or reducing an inflammatory response comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that can inhibit lysozyme to a cell or animal in need thereof.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the agent is a carbohydrate having at least two N-acetylglucosamine (NAG) units.

9. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the agent is N,N diacetylglucosamine (chitobiose) or N,N',N" triacetylglucosamine (TAC).

10. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide to lysozyme or antibody to lysozyme.

11. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the agent can inhibit the binding of lysozyme to a glycoprotein on the cell to be treated.

12. (original) A method according to claim 7 where the animal has a condition selected from the group consisting of sepsis and systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS).

13. (original) A method of preventing or reducing the onset of myocardial dysfunction in an animal with sepsis comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that can inhibit lysozyme to the animal.

14. (original) A method of reversing myocardial depression in an animal with sepsis comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that can inhibit lysozyme to the animal.

15. (original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the agent is N,N' diacetylglucosamine (chitobiose).

16. (original) A method of treating a condition selected from the group consisting of septic shock and systemic inflammatory response syndrome (SIRS) comprising administering an effective amount of an agent that can inhibit lysozyme to a cell or animal in need thereof.

17. cancelled.

18. cancelled.